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APPLICANT INITIATED INTERVIEW REQUEST

In accordance with the Examiner's invitation to Applicants to contact the Examiner to discuss possible amendments for overcoming the prior art of record (see Office Action at page 8, Response to Arguments), Applicants' representative respectfully requests a telephonic interview with Primary Examiner Allan Hoosain, in the above mentioned application in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 713.01(III).

Primary Examiner Allan Hoosain kindly is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below (or at Applicant's representative's direct number at 703-761-7623) to arrange for the telephonic interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

REMARKS

Entry of this Request for Reconsideration is proper because it does not raise any new issues requiring further search by the Examiner, narrows the issues on appeal, and is believed to place the present application in condition for immediate allowance.

A Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 (unexecuted) is submitted herewith. The executed Declaration will be submitted shortly.

Claims 1-5, 12, and 32-67 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

No claims have been amended.

Claims 37-41, 46-48, 50, 51, 53-60, and 65 stand rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Riskin (U.S. Patent No. 4,817,129). Claims 1-5, 12, 32-35, 37-41, 44, 46-48, and 50-67 stand rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stern et al. (U.S. Application No. 2004/0132433 A1). Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over Stern in view of Yamakita (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,698). Claims 42, 43, 45, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern in view of Hou et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,325,421).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention is directed to an improved calling procedure including a method for connecting a user to a telephone number.

Conventional telephone numbers for North American domestic calling typically consist of seven digits plus a three digit area code. However, a string of seven seemingly random digits is difficult to remember because there is no apparent logical connection between a called party and the string of digits that constitutes the party's number. One solution has been to use the alphabet characters listed on the keys of the telephone's keypad to enter mnemonics. However, the availability of possible mnemonics is severely limited because there are only seven digits in the telephone number and more than one letter corresponds to each digit, among other reasons.

Other conventional methods include providing directory assistance to callers. However, this system also has drawbacks because it can be expensive, time consuming, and may require the user to know certain information, such as the full name of the party and/or the city where the party resides, among other things.

The claimed invention (as defined, for example, by independent claim 1), on the other hand, provides a method for an improved calling procedure that is capable of determining an entry modality device from a plurality of entry modality devices, thereby being capable of receiving a phone address, which may include a plurality of numbers, letters, phrases, sounds,

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handwriting entries, or sequences thereof. Thus, while the claimed invention is capable of receiving conventional seven digit telephone numbers, the claimed invention also is capable of distinguishing between different entry modality devices from a plurality of entry modality devices, such a voice, keypad, telephone keypad, alphanumeric keyboard, and handwriting entry modality devices, and then decoding the phone address of the party being called according to the determined entry modality device (e.g., see specification at page 3, lines 9-14).

Moreover, the claimed invention (as defined, for example, by independent claim 12) is capable of resolving ambiguities between a plurality of parties corresponding to the same phone address, or a restricted party corresponding to one phone address by selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters (e.g., see specification at page 3, lines 14-20). That is, the exemplary invention defined by claim 1 is capable of resolving ambiguities between a plurality of telephone numbers corresponding to a same phone address and connecting the caller to one of the plurality of telephone numbers that results from consulting the reference table and resolving ambiguities.

III. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

As an aside, Applicants note that claim 12 is not included in the present rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Riskin. Therefore, the rejection of claim 12 in view of Riskin has been withdrawn.

A. Claims 37-41, 46-48, 50, 51, 53-60, and 65 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Riskin. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that there are

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elements of claims 37-41, 46-48, 50, 51, 53-60, and 65 which are not disclosed or suggested by Riskin, and therefore, respectfully traverse this rejection.

The claimed invention is capable of decoding the received phone address according to the determined entry modality device.

The claimed invention also is capable of resolving ambiguities between a plurality of parties corresponding to the same phone address, or a restricted party corresponding to one phone address by selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters (e.g., see specification at page 3, lines 14-20), as defined, for example, by independent claims 37 and 65.

For example, independent claim 37 recites a method for determining a telephone number, including:

*receiving an ambiguous phone address from a caller;
selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters;
collecting additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and
determining, using said additional information, whether said phone address resolves to a telephone number (emphasis added).*

On the other hand, independent claim 37 recites a system for determining telephone numbers, including:

*a selector that selects an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters;
a collector that collects additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and
a determiner that determines, using said additional information, whether an ambiguous phone address from a caller resolves to a telephone number (emphasis added).*

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Moreover, the claimed invention selects from parameters such as the caller's present location (e.g., location of the caller, a predetermined radius of a location of the caller, and/or a latitudinal and longitudinal coordinate of the caller, as defined by dependent claims 39, 40, and 41), the phone number the caller is placing the call from (e.g., as defined by dependent claim 38), the caller's personal or group ID (e.g., voice print, voice sample, and/or predetermined phrase that is audibly input by the caller; e.g., as defined by dependent claim 42, 43, 44, 45), and/or the caller's response to query (e.g., by asking the caller to respond to a query; e.g., as defined by dependent claim 53), etc.

In comparison, Riskin teaches a plurality of collisions (last names with the same numeric strings and multiple occurrences of first names) which are resolved differently by asking a caller for different confirmations (see Riskin at column 16, lines 37-56).

That is, Riskin merely resolves duplicates (i.e., same first names) and collisions (i.e., two different last names result in the same numeric string) by asking the caller to respond to a query (e.g., see Riskin at Figure 14; see also column 16, lines 37-56). Thus, in Riskin, when a duplicate occurs, the computer asks the caller to confirm the last name, and then asks the caller to enter the first name so that it can differentiate between two duplicates. When a collision occurs, the computer asks the caller for the first name without confirming the last name.

In other words, in Riskin, the ambiguity is resolved only by a single parameter, which is asking the caller to respond to a query, such as confirming the name of the party being called.

Thus, Riskin clearly does not disclose or suggest "*selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters*", as recited in claim 37, or "*a selector that selects an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters*", as recited in claim 65.

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Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that there are elements of independent claims 37 and 65 that are not disclosed or suggested by Riskin. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 12, 37, and 65.

Moreover, Applicants submit that dependent claims 38-41, 46-48, 50, 51, and 53-60, are patentable over Riskin by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 37, as well as for the novel combination of additional features defined by these claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that there are elements of claims 37-41, 46-48, 50, 51, 53-60, and 65 which are not disclosed or suggested by Riskin. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

B. Claims 1-5, 12, 32-35, 37-41, 44, 46-48, and 50-67 stand rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stern. Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern in view of Yamakita. Claims 42, 43, 45, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern in view of Hou.

Applicants submit that Stern can be removed as prior art by swearing behind the filing date of Stern.

The Stern application entered the National Stage (parent number PCT/US01/22261) as U.S. Application Serial No. 10/332,889 filed on July 16, 2001, which claims priority from Provisional Application No. 60/218,469 filed on July 14, 2000. Stern was published as U.S. Application Publication 2004/0132433A1 on July 8, 2004, and therefore, is available as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The earliest effective prior art date of Stern (which is the filing date of July 14, 2000 of the Provisional Application from which priority is claimed) is ten months and thirteen days prior to Applicant's U.S. filing date of May 1, 2001.

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However, Stern can be removed by filing a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131.

Accompanying this Amendment is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 (unexecuted), together with Exhibits 1-4.

The Declaration and attached Exhibits 1-4 clearly evidence a completion of the invention (e.g., a reduction to practice) in a NAFTA or WTO member country before the filing date (e.g., July 14, 2000) of Provisional Application Serial No. 60/218,469 on which U.S. Publication No. 2004/0132433A1 to Stern is based.

In the alternative, Applicants submit that the claimed invention was conceived prior to July 14, 2000 (e.g., as shown by the attached Invention Disclosures (Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2) having creation dates (now redacted) prior to July 14, 2000) and, coupled with due diligence from a date before July 14, 2000, to the date the invention was constructively reduced to practice on May 1, 2001 (e.g., as shown by the attached Exhibits 1-4). That is, the application and the executed formal papers for the present application were filed in the U.S. Patent Office on May 1, 2001. The executed version of the Declaration will be submitted shortly.

Thus, Stern is removed as prior art and the rejections of claims 1-5, 12, 32-35, 37-41, 44, 46-48, and 50-67 under 37 C.F.R. § 102(e), claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Stern in view of Yamakita, and claims 42, 43, 45, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Stern in view of Hou, should be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 12, and 32-67, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in

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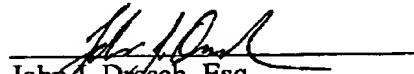
condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: October 26, 2005


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 the enclosed Request for Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 to Examiner Allan Hoosain on October 26, 2005.


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